

HERE AND THERE

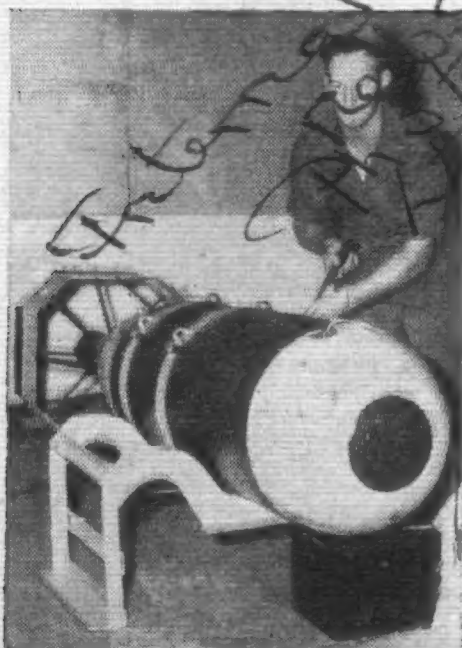
stalling speed of under 40 m.p.h. plus outstanding manoeuvrability and angle of climb. An experimental version of the machine without spray equipment has been flown by two of the largest spray operators in the Middle West who report very favourably on its performance.

First-hand Experience

AMONG the passengers who were in the Mercury Airways' D.C.3 which came down 175 miles south of Wadi Halfa last week was Mr. J. J. Gerritsen, Chief Engineer of Tiltman Langley Laboratories, Ltd. Mr. Gerritsen who was on his way to his home in Johannesburg for a holiday was fortunately unharmed. For the past seven or eight years Mr. Gerritsen has been working on problems connected with aircraft fires in flight and crash fires.

Helicopter Spraying in Sudan

SPECIALLY fitted with crop-spraying apparatus by Pest Control, Ltd., Cambridge, a Westland Sikorsky S.51 helicopter has been shipped to the Sudan after extensive trials in this country. The first experiments in spraying cotton crops in the Sudan, as protection against insects, will take place in the Blue Nile province, near Turabi; Mr. J. Harper, Pest Control's chief pilot, began the trials on October 12th. The S.51, which normally carries three persons, when fitted with the spraying gear carries only the pilot, who operates the spray. Sufficient insecticide for 20 minutes' work is carried in a 70-gallon tank. It is estimated that about 400 acres a day can be covered. Pest Control have ordered a fleet of S.51 helicopters and hope that by operating them in Africa during the slack season in England a lowering of cost will be effected to approximately the level of ground spraying.



HEAT-SENSITIVE BOMB: This VB-6 heat-directed bomb carries a mechanism in the nose which reacts to heat and is linked to guiding apparatus which directs it on to targets which reflect more heat than their surroundings, such as ships and factories. It has been reported that the mechanism reacts even to a lighted cigarette moved across in front of it when on its stand.



SUCTION TESTS: To determine how close a person can stand to the intake of jet engines, Lt. A. L. Hall of the U.S. Navy undertook this experiment with a stout line attached to his body. The danger area was found to be within two to three feet around the intake scoop. The test followed the death of a mechanic in California who went too close to an intake pipe.

News in Brief

THE public enclosure at London Airport closed at dusk on October 10th. During the seven months it has been open nearly 275,000 people have paid for admission. Last year 246,569 people passed through the enclosure which was only open for four months.

According to the Boeing Company European based Superfortresses have been making routine training flights for nearly a year to an American base in Arabia, near Dhahran on the Persian Gulf. These flights are said to be safeguarding American interests in the Saudi Arabian oilfields.

Curtiss-Wright Corporation of America has been using a modified B-17 Fortress for high altitude tests of the new T-35 Typhoon airscrew turbine engine, which has been designed for long range bombers. The T-35 installation is in addition to the usual four engines.

At the board meeting of the Fairey Aviation Co., Ltd., on September 30th, a dividend for the year ended March 31st, 1948, was recommended for confirmation at the general meeting to be held on October 27th, 1948, of 2s per share less income tax at the rate of 9s in the pound. This is the same rate of dividend as for the previous year.

To test the possibilities of firing V2 and American rocket projectiles horizontally from ships, the U.S. Navy is carrying out trials in the Atlantic with the former seaplane tender the *Norton Sound*. Since the experimental rocket range in New Mexico has only been suitable for vertical firing of rockets, the "floating laboratory" has been selected for horizontal tests.

G/C. W. N. Cumming, O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.R.Ae.S., F.R.Met.S., has become a partner in the firm of Heenan, Winn and Steel, consulting engineers and designers of the Planet Satellite. He has resigned as managing director of Straight Aviation Training and also given up his directorship in other companies of the Straight Group.

An appeal has been sent by telegram from Germany to His Majesty the King protesting against the continued use of Heligoland for practice bombing. In its present damaged condition the island could contribute nothing to German economy and is said to be the only suitable target for the training of bomber crews.

Previously Senior Technical Officer on gas-turbine performance analysis in the Directorate of Engine Research and Development with the Ministry of Supply, Mr. Philip L. Sumner, B.Sc., A.F.R.Ae.S., A.M.I.Mech.E., has resigned his position and taken up an appointment on the Higher Technical Staff of the department of Air Transport at the Science Museum.

Mr. T. H. Y. Bonsey, D.F.H., A.M.I.E.E., of the British Aluminium Co., Ltd., who was seconded to the Control Commission in Germany in 1945, has relinquished his appointment to become sales manager of the Aluminium Wire and Cable Co., Ltd., of Swansea and London. Mr. C. H. E. Ridpath, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., has been appointed deputy sales manager.

Reports from Washington state that two American warships which were subjected to atom bomb tests at Bikini nearly two and a half years ago are still radio-active. They are shortly to be taken out to sea and sunk. Of the 76 ships involved in the test only 12 remain afloat, four of which have been returned to active service.

A. Cdre. A. H. Wann, one of the few remaining airship pilots, died in the South of France on October 11th. He commanded both the R 36 and the R 38 airships and was the sole survivor in the forward portion of the latter when it crashed in flames near the Humber in 1921. He served as A.O.C. Malta during the war and subsequently in the Directorate-General of Personal Services at the Air Ministry. He retired from the R.A.F. in 1946.